HFC Spanish Editorial Style Guide October 2013

National Park Service interpretive media

*Guidelines for translators, contractors, interpreters, rangers,
writers, and editors working on NPS Spanish-language signs,
publications, museum labels, film scripts, audio description, and
outdoor wayside exhibits*

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SECTION 1:   GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1.01
How literal?

Avoid word-for-word translation. **Clarity of meaning** and natural-reading **elegance** of phrasing are more important than matching the exact word order of English original texts. We want to avoid the appearance that Spanish-language materials in national parks were written first in English and then translated in a rigid, mechanical way.

People who only read Spanish should be just as effectively engaged as English-only readers. Spanish-only readers should not be bored by a baby-talk Spanish, nor bogged down by strange and unnatural constructions that can happen when a translator forces Spanish to mirror the word order of English.

Sentence length in Spanish can be longer than the sentence lengths usually seen in English materials written for national parks. If your draft Spanish translation reads in a choppy, unnatural way, consider combining some of the short sentences to make it flow in a way more normal in Spanish prose writing.

1.02
Titles should differ

Titles for Spanish-language exhibits and publications should be **edited or rewritten to quickly engage reader interest.** The best Spanish titles to communicate important interpretive ideas are most probably **not** exact translations of the original English.

1.03
Regional dialects?

Aim for a broadly based, international Spanish, similar to what we hear today on news broadcasts on the major international television cable channels, such as *Univisión* or *Telemundo* or *CNN Español*.

1.04
Visual parity

If designers place translated Spanish text blocks below English on bilingual exhibits or publications, it gives Spanish-only readers the impression that the English audience is more important, and that the Spanish-reading audience is not as important.

If designers **place English text blocks on the left and Spanish text to the right,** you will have fewer complaints.

For publications, the cleanest, least confusing solution is to create a Spanish-only document and an English-only document.

SECTION 2: **CAPITALIZATION**

Double-check to make sure that any texts submitted in Spanish conform to the accepted Spanish rules, *not the English norms taught in the United States*. You can see significant differences. In regions where many people use both English and Spanish on a daily basis, expect confusion about the rules of capitalization — in both languages.

Here are the capitalization errors that commonly crop up:

2.01
Days of the week

per English rule	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
per Spanish rule	*lunes, martes, merciless*

Months

per English rule	January, December, April, August
per Spanish rule	*enero, diciembre, abril, agosto*

2.02
Geographic names
Accidentes geográficos

per English rule	Mississippi River
per Spanish rule	*río Misisipí* (lowercase RÍO)
*on maps along stream line	*Misisipí*
*alternate for maps	*R. Misisipí*
per English rule	Gulf of Mexico
per Spanish rule	*golfo de México*
per English rule	Florida Bay
per Spanish rule	*bahía de la Florida*
per English rule	Chihuahuan Desert
per Spanish rule	*desierto de Chihuahua*
per English rule	Panama Canal
per Spanish rule	*canal de Panamá*
per English rule	Hawaiian Islands
per Spanish rule	*islas de Hawái*

2.03
Tribe and nation names

per English rule	English, German, Seminole, Apache
per Spanish rule	*inglés, alemán, seminola, apache*

2.04
Titles of books, exhibits

per English rule	Most words in a title are capitalized.
Exhibit title	• "Plaza—The Heart of the Pueblo"
Book title	• For Whom the Bell Tolls
per Spanish rule	**Only the FIRST word capitalized**
Exhibit title	• *Plaza—el centro del pueblo*
Book title	• *Por quién doblan las campanas*

NPS publications, museum exhibits, and waysides follow the international rules of capitalization for Spanish seen in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, Sections 9.4 though 9.6.

SECTION 3:   **VERB FORMS & PRONOUN CHOICES**

3.01
Command verb forms

The problem: commands in English often do not carry a clear sense of the degree of formality, nor the number of persons being addressed. Spanish verbs must have these concepts defined to employ the correct verb form.

Default for Spanish in NPS documents and exhibits should be the **formal command** verb forms, singular rather than plural. We assume **an individual is reading** the publication or the outdoor wayside exhibit or the indoor exhibit.

Some NPS exhibit texts ask for visitors to act safely or obey rules in nice, light-handed, often oblique terms.

Experience and evaluations show that this light-handed approach is often ignored. Use clear, **direct imperative** verb forms in Spanish, especially for safety messages.

3.02
YOU: formal or informal?

The pronoun YOU in English can be either singular or plural, and carries few clues as to the degree of formality or familiarity of the relationship of the writer/ speaker to the reader or listener.

Determine how formal your Spanish text needs to be, working with client park personnel that know the intended audience.

Will the formal second person singular –*USTED*— or the informal second person singular—*TU*— work best to achieve the goals?

| SECTION 4: | **PUNCTUATION** |

Make sure your texts' punctuation follows the accepted Spanish rules. Check the *Chicago Manual of Style*, Sections 9.68 through 9.79. If you have other doubts, major Spanish-language newspapers post their style guides on the Internet.

In areas of the United States where many people know and see both languages daily, expect confusion, especially about comma use.

Punctuation problems that have shown up many times in submittals for review are:

4.01
Comma use in sequences

| per English rule | first, second, and third |
| per Spanish rule | *primero, segundo y tercero* |

Note: **NO comma** is placed immediately before *Y (AND)*

4.02
Initial question mark   ¿
Initial exclamation mark ¡

Spanish interrogatory and exclamatory sentences must start with an upside down question mark and an upside down exclamation mark before the first word of the sentence.

These two symbols exist in all ASCII character sets. With either Mac or PC computers, there are always ways to include them in Spanish texts and publications.

4.03
Vowels with accents

A word in Spanish without its proper accented vowel is a misspelled word. **Accents are not optional** in any Spanish-language products created for the National Park Service.

Keystrokes exist to create all the special characters needed to write Spanish correctly on both Mac and PC computers.

 Some people have argued that accented vowels are no longer necessary for writing correct Spanish. Advertising materials often omit accents, particularly when they are using all caps to attract attention. This no-accent practice produces work that looks shoddy and unprofessional.

SECTION 5: **NUMBERS**

5.01
Round off

Numbers seen in NPS publications, outdoor waysides, and indoor exhibits seldom express precise measurements. When writers say a trail is "a quarter-mile long," they are implying it is **about** a quarter of a mile, not a rigorously exact 0.2500 mile—and not a fraction of an inch more.

Calculators that convert miles to kilometers and inches/feet to meters assume exact quantities and give results with exactitude. A calculator converts "quarter-mile trail" into **402.3 meters.** Writing a converted distance this way implies a degree of very high precision that is —wrong.

The common sense goal here is to make a distance or weight quick to read and easy to understand.

Round off trail distances in miles to tenths of a mile. For short trails, round off the distance to the nearest 50 meters/yards.

Use common sense when rounding off large weights. Go for quick and easy-to-understand comparison.

| Recommended | quarter mile:
(about) 500 lbs. | *400 metros*
230 kg |
| Not recommended | 0.25 mile:
(about) 500 lbs. | ~~*402.3*~~ *metros*
~~*227*~~ *kg* |

5.02
Separators

Decimal point	per USA practice per Spanish practice	7.62 mm ***7,62 mm***	10.5 kg ***10,5 kg***
Thousands, millions	per USA practice	43,000 tons 6,500,000 casualties	
	per Spanish practice	***43.000 toneladas*** ***6.500.000 bajas***	

In the United States we separate whole numbers from decimals with a period. Commas separate every three places in very large numbers. Many other nations mark the smaller-than-a-whole-number separation with a comma, They separate thousands with a period.

Determine what will work best with your intended audience. Some national parks choose to stay with the USA standard separators. Some national parks have chosen the alternate comma as decimal point system for their Spanish.

5.03
Billions, Trillions

CAVEAT

A billion in English is NOT equal to 1 *billón* in Spanish.

English-speakers use a different name system for very large numbers than most of Europe and Latin America, where the large-number name changes only every 6 digits.

	USA	Spanish/Europe
1,000,000	million	*millón*
1,000,000,000	**billion**	*mil millones*
1,000,000,000,000	trillion	***billón***
1,000,000,000,000,000	quadrillion	*mil billones*
1,000,000,000.000.000,000	quintillion	***trillón***

SECTION 6:	**GENERAL FORMATS AND RULES TO FOLLOW**

6.01
Time Format

Latin American countries and Spain use the 24-hour format for stating time, rather than the 12-hour AM/PM format.

Recommended	**16:00**	**19.00 hs**
Not recommended	4:00 PM	7.00 PM

6.02
Date Format

Dates in text in Spanish follow the DD de MM de YYYY format, so when this is truncated for saving line space, it makes sense to give dates DD.MM.YYYY. Translating dates in full is a terrible line length/space waster.

Recommended	*4 de julio de 1776*
	4.7.1776
	04-VII-1776

Determine which hour-minute **separator** punctuation will work best for the anticipated audience.

6.03
Centuries

Use Roman numerals to express centuries.
This differs from English editorial practice, where Roman numerals are often judged to be off-putting or a potential reader roadblock. Roman numerals for centuries are standard practice in the literate Spanish-speaking world.

per NPS Style Guide	the 1900s, in the 1700s
Recommended	Siglo XX, en el siglo XVIII
Not recommended	*Siglo 20, en el siglo 18*

6.04
BC / AD

Recommended	**a. C., d. C.**
Not recommended	***antes de la Era Común***

Expressing dates as Common Era (CE) and Before Common Era (BCE) instead of A.D. and B.C. does not have partisans in the Spanish-speaking world.

6.05
Decades

Recommended	en los años 1840 (note <u>no</u> final S)
	En los años sesenta (1960s)
	Durante la década de 1840
Not recommended	***en los años 1840s***
	En los años 1960s
	Durante la década de los 1840s

6.06
Geographic names

CAVEAT

Place names are not always the same in English and Spanish. Some common errors seen are:

Rio Grande River   in English
río Bravo del Norte   in Spanish

Havana   in English
la Habana   in Spanish

The English Channel   in English
El canal de la Mancha   in Spanish

Check resources like *Cassell's Spanish Dictionary, Diccionario-Enciclopedia Pequeño Larousse Ilustrado, Gran Enciclopedia Hispánica* or http://es.wikipedia.org/

6.07
States vs. Nations

On maps of North America, strive for label parity. Match nations' names with nations' names and states with states. Texas, Arizona, California, and New Mexico are states. The United States, México, and Canada are nations.

Recommended	UNITED STATES	CANADA
	MÉXICO	UNITED STATES

Alternate:	CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO
	BAJA CALIFORNIA, SONORA, CHIHUAHUA

TEXAS
CHIHUAHUA, COAHUILA, TAMAULIPAS

Not recommended	ARIZONA	CANADA
	MÉXICO	MONTANA

6.08
People's names

Honor individuals by using their real name. Keep English names all English, and Spanish names all Spanish.

Recommended	William Henry Gray
Not recommended	*Guillermo Enrique Gris*

Recommended	*Juan Ponce de León*
Not recommended	John Ponce from Leon

6.09
Indian names

Honor individuals by using their real name wherever possible.

Translating an already translated-into-English Indian name doesn't add much value for a Spanish-only reader. It is better to convey the actual sound of the original Indian

name by spelling phonetically using the Spanish spelling system. Then reveal what the original Indian name meant.

Nez Perce name, translated	Rabbit-Skin-Leggings
Not recommended	*Polainas de Pellejo de Conejo*

Spelled phonetically	Heh-yooks Toe-nihn
2nd variant spelling found	Hee-oh'ks-te-hone
Present-day Nez Perce	heeyuxc tohon
Spelled phonetically in Spanish	***Ji-lluks-tojón***

In the Southwest, some American Indians sometimes had both a name in their first language and a Spanish name.

A famous case in point is the Chiricahua Apache leader GERONIMO (1829–1909). His Apache name was *Go-yath-láy*. He is famous in both English and Spanish as GERÓNIMO. Keep his name in Spanish (Gerónimo) for the best chance to connect stories to readers' memories.

6.10
Use tribal names

For English NPS texts, we recommend using the name of the group of people we are talking about instead of the general noun INDIAN.

Follow the same principle in Spanish.

Avoid using the popular term NATIVE AMERICAN.

Recommended	*los apache, los cayuse, los mikasuki*
Not recommended	*los indios*
Not recommended	*los nativos americanos*
Not recommended	*los amerindios*
Not recommended	*los indoamericanos*

Remember tribe names **remain lowercase** in Spanish.

6.11
Use national names

Use the national name of a people instead of the general noun EUROPEANS when talking about the 1500s–1800s frontier, exploration, or settlement.

Avoid using the academic term EURO-AMERICAN.

Recommended	*los españoles, ingleses, franceses*
Not recommended	*los europeos*
Not recommended	*los euro-americanos*

Remember national names **remain lowercase** in Spanish.

6.12
Business names

Leave business names in their original English—or internationally best known form.

Recommended	Hudson's Bay Company
Not recommended	*Compañía de la Bahía de Hudson*

When in doubt, you can check for widely known corporate names in Spanish history textbooks, or on the Internet.

6.13
Map labels

Keep bilingual maps in publications, exhibits, or waysides as uncluttered as possible.

Use pictograms to replace words wherever possible to avoid having so many English/Spanish labels on a map.

Use Spanish labels to convey the essence of meaning, **not a literal translation of the English** map labels. Especially watch out for governmental jargon that means little.

Divide labels into four groups: place names, easy cognates, essential orientation or safety information, and thematics.

Place names

DO NOT TRANSLATE.

Easy cognates

DO NOT TRANSLATE IF WORDS ARE VERY SIMILAR.

Recommended	Amphitheater Picnic Area [STET]
Not recommended	Amphitheater Picnic Area
	Anfiteatro *Área de picnic*

Safety, Orientation

USERS WILL NEED BOTH ENGLISH & SPANISH.

Thematic labels

USERS NEED BOTH ENGLISH & SPANISH.
USE ALL SMALL CAPS.

Examples:	*WATER (FLOW), TRADEWINDS*
Recommended	*AGUA, VIENTOS ALISIOS*

North Indicator

USE THE SINGLE LETTER ABBREVIATION **"N."**

Scale Indicators

USE THE ABBREVIATIONS **"KM"** AND **"MI"** which work in both languages without translation.

SECTION 7: PROBLEM WORDS AND SOLUTIONS

7.01
Alligators & gator holes

Recommended	*aligátor*	*aligatores*
Not recommended	*caimán*	*yacaré*
	cocodrilo	

The most widely distributed and well known crocodilians in Latin America are caimans. Some NPS naturalists have advocated using CAIMÁN in the place of ALIGÁTOR because this word is so easily recognized.

Some have argued that the word ALIGÁTOR looks like an Anglicism or a mistake. Ironically, the English word originally comes from Spanish.

The word ALIGÁTOR is proper Spanish. This is the right common name for *Alligator mississippiensis*. The word ALIGÁTOR is found in the *Diccionario de la Real Academia Española*. See http://buscon.rae.es/

In exhibits produced for Everglades NP, the colloquial — and unique to South Florida — expression **GATOR HOLE** was translated as CHARCO. The key idea to convey is that these are pools full of water, not that the gator holes are excavations.

7.02
América & Americans
CAVEAT

Citizens of the United States routinely call our country "AMERICA" and ourselves "AMERICANS."

But, in Spanish the word AMÉRICA includes **all the nations** on the two continents between the Arctic Circle and Cape Horn. AMÉRICA is not just the USA, but North America, Central America, and South America. From Mexico south to Argentina, all Latin Americans consider themselves to be "Americans," because they live in the Americas.

This makes a slogan like **EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA** challenging to translate well into Spanish, because it begs the question of which AMERICA you want people to experience and to whom that AMERICA belongs.

The most accurate—and least offensive—way to refer to the peoples of the United States is *ESTADOUNIDENSES*. No exact equivalent for this word exists in English.

Recommended	*estadounidenses*
Alternate	*norteamericanos*
Not recommended	*americanos*

Recommended	*Estados Unidos de América*
If space limited	*EE.UU.*
Not recommended	*América*

Keep in mind that after the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846–1848 50% of the Republic of Mexico was taken by the USA. Taking over the word AMERICAN to only include U.S. citizens has the potential to reopen historic resentments for many Latin Americans.

7.03
Audio Description

For drama, exhibits, tours	*audiodescripción*
For film or TV	*videodescripción*

In English, the term AUDIO DESCRIPTION refers to all efforts to describe, in succinct terms, museum exhibits, wayside exhibits, plays, or videos for visitors who are blind or who have limited vision.

In Spanish, professionals who provide these services for the blind separate their products into the two terms seen above.

Some correct, polite Spanish terms for people who see poorly are INVIDENTE and AMBLIOPE. The condition of poor vision is AMBLIOPÍA.

If you are working on a translation of an audio description script into Spanish, check online for the latest word choices and suggestions. In 2012, helpful resources for this kind of work were found in Barcelona, Spain, Mexico City, Mexico, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

See: http://www.once.es/new/
ONCE (Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles)

http://www.prociegos.com/
Comité Internacional Pro Ciegos IAP (México, D.F.)

http://www.faica.org.ar/
Federación Argentina de Instituciones de Ciegos y Ambliopes

7.04
Backcountry

There is no widely accepted and well-understood translation of this concept in Spanish that truly matches the way the National Park Service casually uses this word to

mean parts of national parks where there is little or no developed infrastructure for hikers or campers.

The *Diccionario Inglés-Español de La Universidad de Granada* gives this definition:

backcountry (n.): monte,
monte salvaje,
zona interior despoblada

All these possible renderings have a negative cast to them and refer to places that are backward or poorly developed.

Try to find a way to say your key thought without relying on NPS institutional phrasing in English, and avoid wasting people's reading time by translating BACKCOUNTRY.

Examples:

Backcountry permit — *Permiso de acampar al aire libre*
Permiso de acampar en el monte
Permiso de acampar en plena naturaleza

Backcountry hiking — *Caminar por campo abierto*

Backcountry trailhead — *Estacionamiento para campistas de la zona interior*
Estacionamiento para acampar al aire libre

7.05
Barrier islands

| Recommended | ***cordón litoral*** |
| Not recommended | ***islas barreras*** |

The term ISLAS BARRERAS has been showing up on the Internet, mostly in documents written in English, then translated word-for-word by translation software.

The Spanish term most found in geography and geology textbooks is CORDÓN LITORAL.

7.06
Bathrooms

Recommended	***servicios sanitarios***
Acceptable	***excusado, baños***
	aseos públicos, inodoro
Less widely used	***retrete, urinario***
Archaic (military architecture)	***necesaria***

Not recommended   *estación de consuelo, váter*

Reviewers working on a White Sands project in 2013 discovered that for many first-language-Spanish readers, the term BAÑO implies that there will be running water provided, hands may be washed, and flushing will occur.

If what you have is an outdoor pit toilet at a backcountry site, use LETRINA or RETRETE.

Don't literally translate English euphemisms like COMFORT STATION and RESTROOMS word for word.

7.07
Bayou

The French word BAYOU was critical for describing the life zones found in Gulf Islands National Seashore. We found no exact equivalent for BAYOU in Spanish. The translation team first suggested PANTANO (marsh, swamp). But bayous are not just static or tidal marshes, they usually involve very slow-moving creeks or arms of rivers.

Since travelers anywhere in the Gulf coast region will see the word BAYOU repeated many times on road signs and NPS maps, the review team decided the best solution was to keep it STET —not translated—and put it in italics to give the clue to Spanish-readers that it is a special foreign word.

7.08
Billions
CAVEAT

A billion in English is NOT equal to *un billón* en español.

1 billion	in English	= 1,000,000,000	= 10^9
1 *billón*	in Spanish	= **1,000,000,000,000**	= 10^{12}

This is a very common translation error. Since the 17th century, Spanish-speaking countries—as well as most continental European nations—use what is called the "long scale" in naming large numbers.

1,000,000,000 (10^9) = *mil millones o millardo* en español.

7.09
Bird calls in Spanish

Naturalists often try to describe the sound of birdcalls with either mnemonic devices or phonetic spellings. During Spanish translation for new exhibits for Gulf Islands NS in 2009, reviewers uncovered the need to have phonetic spelling that is language-specific. How English speakers hear a bird song and spell it turned out to be radically

different from how naturalists who are native speakers of Spanish heard and described the same sound.

Least bittern song in English: **"oong-KA-chunk"**

Least bittern song in Spanish: **"tu-UM-tac-cuc"**

When in doubt about how to phonetically spell a bird song in Spanish, get help from birder colleagues in Latin America.

7.10
Bugs
CAVEAT

Avoid using BICHO in NPS publications or exhibits.

In some countries, BICHO can just mean a "bug" or bothersome insect,— or a perverse person (all negative connotations). However in Puerto Rico, *bicho* is a very vulgar, offensive word.

| Recommended | *insecto* |
| Not recommended | *bicho* |

7.11
Bullet nomenclature

ARMOR-PIERCING	~	*núcleo perforante*
BRASS (EMPTY CASE)	~	*casquillo*
BREECHLOADER	~	*arma de retrocarga*
BULLET	~	*bala*
CENTERFIRE	~	*fuego central*
CONICAL BULLET	~	*bala cónica*
COPPER JACKET	~	*envoltura de latón*
FULL-METAL JACKET	~	*bala blindada*
HOLLOW POINT	~	*bala expansiva*
LEAD INTERIOR	~	*núcleo de plomo*
MINIE BALL	~	*bala Minié*
MUZZLELOADER	~	*arma de avancarga*
RIMFIRE	~	*fuego anular*
SINGLE-SHOT	~	*monotiro*
SOFT-POINT	~	*bala semiblindada*
STRIPPER CLIP	~	*peine de muelle*
WADCUTTER	~	*sacabocados*

Some older military cartridges have names with two numbers. The first number is the caliber (diameter expressed in hundredths of an inch). The second number can be either be the year the bullet was designed or

introduced — or the grains of (black) powder loaded in the brass case. Examples:

.30-40 Krag-Jørgenson [2nd number is grains of powder]

.30-**06** Springfield [2nd number is year of introduction]

.45-70 Springfield [2nd number is grains of powder]

Although these cartridge names have a hyphen between two numerical values, they **do not express a range** of calibers (from bullet diameter XX to diameter YY).

Do not convert to metric. Keep the name of the bullet STET, because they are known worldwide by that nomenclature.

7.12
Caliber of cannon

Historic English:	24-pounder cannon
	100-pounder Parrott rifle
	15-inch Rodman
Historic Spanish: (1500s–1890s)	*Un cañón de á 24 (libras)*
Not recommended:	*Un cañón Parrott de 45 kg*
Recommended:	*Un cañón de 135 mm*
	Un cañón Rodman de 38 cm
Not recommended:	*Un cañón de á 18*
	Un cañón de á 100

Military history texts of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries name cannon using the archaic English term POUNDER. A 12-pounder is a cannon whose cannon ball weighed 12 pounds. To knowledgeable history buffs, this makes its possible to compare the bore diameters of different guns.

POUNDER is potentially confusing to modern readers. Many may assume that a 12-pounder cannon weighs 12 pounds.

Spanish artillerists of the 1500s to 1800s also used a pound-based cannon naming system, referencing the weight of the cannonball. But unlike the English POUNDER, the Spanish nomenclature usually did not include the word LIBRA (POUND). Surveys of visitors in forts reveal that today's Spanish-only readers don't often know what the unusual historic artillerists' phrase implies.

Naming a 200-year-old cannon in either Spanish or English by telling how many pounds the ball weighed is a problem

— and all the more so for readers who come from metric countries. Few readers have any idea of how big a 6-pound cannonball is relative to a 24-pound cannon ball.

The better cannon naming system is based on the measurement of the bore diameter, expressed in cm or mm. This name system started gaining favor in the late 19th-century. After the United States' military went metric after World War II, it became the most widely used nomenclature for cannon, mortars, and howitzers. Expressing the bore diameter in centimeters is the easiest way to give Spanish readers an easily understood clue as to the relative size of the cannon projectile.

7.13
Caliber of rifles, shotguns, pistols

English today:	A .75-caliber Brown Bess musket A .69-caliber Spanish pistol A 20-gauge shotgun
Historic Spanish:	*Un fusil inglés de á 12* *Una pistola española de á 16* *Una escopeta de á 20*
Recommended	*Un fusil de 19 mm* *Una pistola de 17.5 mm* ** Una escopeta de calibre 20*

The best solution for correctly identifying rifles and pistols is to **state the bore diameter expressed in millimeters**.

Military history writers commonly refer to the size of rifles, muskets, and pistols by a decimal number below 1.0 followed by the word CALIBER — a *.75 caliber musket*, a *.50 caliber pistol*. This nomenclature tells readers the diameter of the bullet, measured in hundredths of inches. A bigger caliber number relates to a bigger, more powerful rifle or pistol.

Shotguns (in English) are named by a whole number followed by the word GAUGE. "Gauge" indicates the diameter of a barrel for what number of spherical lead balls can be made from a pound. A *12 gauge shotgun* has a bore that would fit a large lead ball that weighs 1/12th of a pound. A bigger number "gauge" is a smaller bore shotgun. A 24-gauge Indian trade gun of the 1700s has a much smaller bore (and therefore less power) than a 10-gauge shotgun today.

Shotguns in Spanish still follow this gauge naming system.

In the 1700–1800s, Spanish nomenclature for pistol and musket calibers followed the same name system still used today for shotgun gauge nomenclature in English. Only arms collectors or military historians will know this arcane nomenclature.

Using **millimeters is a sure bet** to let Spanish-only readers understand how big a gun is, and its comparative size to other weapons cited in your texts.

7.14
Cannon projectiles

Writers describing cannon ammunition of the 1600s–1800s often use a specialized vocabulary to deliver a flavor of the times. These terms are tough for non-military-background translators to render accurately.

BAR SHOT	~	*palanqueta*
CHAIN SHOT	~	*balas encadenadas*
GRAPESHOT, CANISTER SHOT	~	*metralla*
HOT SHOT	~	*bala roja*
ROUND SHOT, SOLID SHOT	~	*bala rasa*
SHELL	~	*granada real*
SPHERICAL CASE	~	*granada de metralla*

Source: Tomás de Morla, Tratado de Artillería, 1804.

Another resource for Spanish artillery technical terms:

700 Años de Artillería: Evolución histórica de los materiales de artillería y sus municiones
Por Coronel de Artillería Don Antonio de Sousa y Francisco; Museo del Ejército, Madrid, España.

This resource showcases many of the engravings from de Morla treatise as well as the correct vocabulary for cannon types, tools, munitions, and practices.

7.15
Chipmunk
Neotamias minimus

Recommended	*ARDILLA LISTADA*
If informal, playful	*ARDILLITA*
Recent Spanglish	*chichimoco, chimoco*
Not recommended	*tamias*

In many nature texts, English writers customarily make a distinction between "chipmunks and squirrels." The Spanish-speaking world sees chipmunks as just a subset of squirrels, not something entirely different. So do zoologists.

Unless there is a pressing reason to call out some difference between chipmunks and other members of the greater squirrel family, use the generic noun ARDILLAS to cover both groups. This is both scientifically accurate and quicker to read and understand.

For English phrase	…chipmunks and squirrels
Recommended	*LAS ARDILLAS*
Not recommended	*las ardillas listadas y las ardillas*

7.16
The Civil War

Recommended	*la guerra civil estadounidense*
Alternate	*la Guerra de Secesión* **(1861–1865)**
Not recommended	*la Guerra Civil*

Military history writers in the United States are accustomed to writing about the Civil War (1861–1865) because this nation has only experienced one civil war, and their English-speaking audience won't be confused.

Spanish-speaking readers come from countries that have had more than one civil war. They may not immediately connect the phrase "the Civil War" with the middle of the 19th century. Augment clarity by including the dates.

7.17
Copperhead
Agkistrodon contortix

Recommended	*CANTIL COBRIZO*
If space limited	*víbora*
Not recommended	*cabeza de cobre*

This small pit viper can be found in the USA, Mexico, and coastal Central America as far south as Costa Rica. On many webpages you can see its name incorrectly translated, an example of how often 21st-century translators are taking the shortcut of directly translating names of animals from English, regardless of how known or utterly unknown that resulting phrase may be to native speakers of Spanish.

See the discussion under section 7.42 ***Rattlesnakes.*** How relatively important is it to convey the idea that a snake is poisonous? Is it essential to get the long-form nature guide style name translated into words that are widely known and understood by first-language-Spanish speakers?

7.18
Coral snake
Micrurus fulvius

Recommended	***SERPIENTE CORALILLO ARLEQUÍN***
If space limited	*coralillo, coral*
If folkloric	*palito de caramelo*
Not recommended	*cobra americana*
	serpiente de coral de Florida
	serpiente grano rojo
	serpiente de liga

This neurotoxic elapid is found both in the southern United States and northeastern Mexico. Mexican herpetologists list 14 other species of coral snake found in their republic. If scientific precision is required in your text, use the longer form of the Spanish common name because U.S. resident *Micrurus fulvius* is not the only coral snake out there.

7.19
Cottonmouth, Water Moccasin
Agkistrodon piscivorous

Recommended	***MOCASÍN NEGRA***
If space limited	*víbora*
Not recommended	***mocasín de agua***
	boca de algodón

This pit viper is only found inside the United States, so it cannot be found named in scientific or governmental species lists in neighboring Spanish-speaking countries. See section 7.42 **Rattlesnakes** (below).

7.20
Critter & Creature

CAVEAT

Nature writers often use the term CRITTER as a playful, lighthearted synonym for ANIMALS.

There is no good way to translate CRITTER into Spanish so that it carries the same positive, friendly-to-kids tone.

Some Spanish-English dictionaries translate CRITTER as *BICHO*. **Avoid this word** in NPS publications and exhibits.

Even the root word for CRITTER —CREATURE — is potentially problematic in Spanish. *CRIATURA* is not a value-neutral term; *CRIATURA* often implies a person who is the puppet or tool of a more powerful figure.

Some dictionaries translate CREATURES as *ANIMALITOS*.

But the word *ANIMAL* in Spanish is not value neutral. *ANIMAL* is sometimes used as a synonym for a violent brute or an uncultured person of low social status.

Recommended: **Don't translate CRITTER.**

Rework your Spanish texts.
Use the actual species name instead.

7.21
Dumping station

Recommended   ***depósito de aguas negras***

The expression DUMP STATION, seen often on maps for national park campgrounds, baffled a translator who was neither a camper, nor a first-language English speaker.

7.22
Euphemisms

Watch out for governmental euphemisms like "COMFORT STATIONS" or "SPECIAL USE PERMIT." Spot such phrases at the beginning of your translation project, and work out what these euphemisms actually mean to save time for translators and editors before text reviews.

7.23
Gun parts

The right words in Spanish for triggers, hammers, springs, sears, touchholes, and frizzens are historic-era-sensitive. What you would call a trigger in a modern gun may not be right for a flintlock musket, or a percussion-cap-era pistol.

FOR FLINTLOCKS		(listed in alphabetical order)
COCK	~	*pié de gato*
FLINTLOCK (TRUE)	~	*llave francés*
FRIZZEN	~	*rastrillo*
FRIZZEN SPRING	~	*muelle del rastrillo*
GUN FLINT	~	*perdernal*
HAMMER	~	*pié de gato*
LOCK	~	*llave*
MAIN SPRING	~	*muelle real*
MIGUELET LOCK	~	*llave española*
PAN	~	*cazoleta*
TOUCHHOLE	~	*oido*
TRIGGER	~	*disparador*

FOR PERCUSSION-ERA AND MODERN GUNS

BOLT ACTION	~	*cerrojo*
BREAK ACTION	~	*basculante*
CAPLOCK	~	*llave de percusión*
CYLINDER (PISTOL)	~	*barrilete*
HAMMER	~	*percutor o martillo percutor*
MAIN SPRING	~	*resorte principal*
LEVER ACTION	~	*de palanca*
OVER UNDER ACTION	~	*de caños superpuestos*
NIPPLE & DRUM	~	*chimenea*
SIDE BY SIDE (SHOTGUN)	~	*yuxtapuestos*
TRIGGER	~	*gatillo*

7.24
"Guns," large and small

CAVEAT

Be aware that military writers often call cannon GUNS.

In most English-Spanish dictionaries, the first meaning given for GUN is *PISTOLA*. In general, the Spanish term ARMA is the best solution for a small hand-held pistol.

But if the English writer is speaking of artillery, use *CAÑÓN*.

GUNNERS in many NPS military history texts refer to men who serve on artillery crews, and should be translated into Spanish as *ARTILLEROS*.

7.25
Handicapped / Disabled

CAVEAT

Recommended   *LOS DISCAPACITADOS*

Not recommended   *los descapacitados*
                              los disminuidos
                              persona impedida

Alternate, gaining
popularity in México: *los minusválidos*

7.26
Horseshoe crab
Limulus polyphemus

Recommended	***CANGREJO BAYONETA***
Alternates	*cangrejo cacerola*
	límulo
	xifosuro
	cacerolita del mar
	tanquecito de mar
	cucaracha marina
Not recommended	***cangrejo herradura*** **(an Anglicism)**

This species turned out to be a classic example of finding many common names in Spanish while looking for something better than a software-generated literal translation of its English common name.

7.27
Indians
CAVEAT

Recommended	***los indígenas***
Not recommended	***los indios***

Reviewers for early NPS Spanish translation projects revealed that the simple word INDIO has pejorative or negative connotations for some readers from some Spanish-speaking countries. Consider how emotionally loaded the words NEGRO, BLACK, and AFRICAN AMERICAN have been in the United States in the last 50 years.

7.28
Jargon: Clear Up or Avoid

Literal word-for-word translation of government jargon produces strange Spanish prose that is almost impenetrable to the average reader. This is often made worse by multiple stacked modifiers so common in bureaucratic English.

Try to get to the essence of the thought, rather than its literal translation in Spanish. On maps, for example, the English word AREA is often superfluous.

Figure out a way to give the thought correctly in Spanish in the fewest words possible without obfuscation.

Examples:

English jargon:	Group Use Area
What it really means:	Sitio para grupos

English jargon:	Backcountry Camping Area
What it really means:	Sitio remoto para acampar
	Sitio para acampar al aire libre

English jargon:	Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
What it really means:	Chaleco salvavidas
English jargon:	Personal Watercraft (PWC)
What it really means:	Moto de agua

| English jargon: | Cooperative Use Area |
| *What it really meant:* | Zona restringida |

7.29
Memorial Day to Labor Day

The expression "Memorial Day to Labor Day" is American cultural shorthand for SUMMER. The English writer has assumed that every reader knows when the federal holidays are in the United States. But readers who do not live in the USA may have no clue when exactly these holidays fall, in the same way that US citizens don't always know all the Mexican national holidays, or all the Canadian holidays.

Recommended	*VERANO*
Not recommended	*desde el Día de los Caídos*
	hasta el Día de Trabajo

7.30
Use metric measurements

Trail and road distances are critical for visitors to understand so that they can make decisions about how best to enjoy their experiences in national parks.

The cleanest, least cluttered solution is to only give miles/yards in English, and kilometers/meters in Spanish.

Recommended:	25 miles	*40 kilómetros*	
Not recommended:	25 miles	40 kilometers	1 hour drive
	25 millas	*40 kilómetros*	*viaje de 1 hora*

Putting both miles and kilometers in both languages eats up valuable space on maps.

Some national park reviewers near the border with Mexico have argued the case that most of their Spanish-speaking visitors live in the United States and are therefore more

familiar with feet, miles, and gallons than meters, kilometers, and liters. Hence there is little or no need to include metric units in publications or exhibits.

No rigorous study has been done to prove that this opinion is true.

To provide solid information to international audiences, the simple and effective solution is to include metric units that are easily understood all around the world.

7.31 Musket vs. Fusil

Recommended   *fusil*

Not recommended   *mosquete*

If the text speaks of a flintlock musket of the late-17th century through the mid-19th century, use FUSIL.

If you are referring to a **MATCHLOCK MUSKET** of the 1500s to the 1600s, then in Spanish use MOSQUETE.

MOSQUETE and FUSIL are not interchangeable. Present-day Spanish-English dictionaries often do not correctly understand the distinction of these two words. Rely on published period sources in Spanish, such as Tomás de Morla's **Tratado de Artillería**, an encyclopedia of cannon and illustrations of the standard military long guns and pistols. To impart the flavor of the 1500s–1700s, use the actual Spanish technical/military words of the time.

The Musket/Fusil confusion is made worse because both words exist in 17th-18th-century English, and are not used in English as they were in Spanish. A FUSIL in an 18th-century English-speaking army was a lighter, smaller long arm carried by an officer. The common soldiers carried a MUSKET. A FUSIL in an 18th-century Spanish-speaking army was the standard long gun carried by the common soldier in the ranks.

FUSIL continues to be the name for the standard soldier's rifle in modern Spanish-speaking armies.

7.32 Names for Plants & Animals

Names of plants and animals vary greatly from country to country in Latin America and Spain. Sometimes as many as 20 different common names can be found for a single animal.

But for other plants or animals, no common name exists in Spanish.

Many translators now use es.Wikipedia.org as easy-to-go-to source for common plant or animal names in Spanish. This has **not proven to be dependable** data because, if the es.wikipedia article was first written in English, the information has usually been translated word-for-word by software, and not necessarily reviewed or edited afterward by native speakers of the Spanish language.

Park staffs can shorten the time needed to get the right popular names in Spanish. Give the translator the **correct scientific name** for every plant or animal mentioned in the film or texts before they start. If the bilingual staff at a national park already has a common Spanish name they use when talking with visitors, list it.

When you find more than one Spanish common name…

Identify your most expected audience: Cuban-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexican-Americans, Central Americans, Spaniards, or a mixture of international visitors.

When in doubt, use the common name of the **closest Spanish-speaking country** to the national park. For Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, or California, use the Mexican common name. For Florida or other Gulf Coast states, use the Cuban, Dominican, or Puerto Rican common name.

If no Spanish name is found…

Use **the scientific name** by itself, with a preceding general noun to give Spanish-only readers a hint what it is you are talking about.

Examples: el molusco *Neverita duplicata*

la vieira *Argopecten gibbus*

el camarón *Tozeuma carolinense*

la víbora *Crotalus scutulatus*

Scientific names are not considered too highbrow in Latin America. In many national parks in the Spanish-speaking world, interpretive texts use the genus and species binomial in the place of local names, and readers expect to see it.

7.33
National Park Service

DO NOT TRANSLATE. Keep the names of all U.S. governmental organizations un-translated in English. Names of agencies, bureaus, and offices are proper nouns.

Translators for the Columbus Quincentennial in the early 1990s hotly debated whether the National Park Service could best be translated as el SERVICIO DE PARQUES NACIONALES or el SERVICIO NACIONAL DE PARQUES. Is the NPS an agency that serves National Parks? Or is it a National Service of Parks?

English allows modifiers to be stacked, and nouns can be used as adjectives. Spanish requires the relationship between the noun and its modifiers to be less vague.

7.34
Nature-based collective nouns

Watch out for texts that explain zones of plant life that (in English) just using a plural noun for the principal plant in that life zone.

The PINES in English may mean both a plurality of trees, or it may mean a plant community. In Spanish two different words are needed to express these different ideas. Examples seen in NPS bilingual products reviewed:

PINES	PINOS	(many pine trees)
	PINAR	(pineland, pine grove)
MANGROVE	MANGLES	(many mangrove plants)
	MANGLAR	(a mangrove forest)
OAKS	ROBLES	(many oak trees)
	ROBLEDAL	(oak grove)
APPLES	MANZANOS	(many apple trees)
	MANZANAR	(an apple orchard)
SHRUB	MATAS	(many shrubs, often dry)
	MATORRAL	(scrubland, thickets)
RUSHES	JUNCOS	(many reeds, rushes)
	JUNCAL	(a field of reeds)
BUSH	**EL MONTE**	The Bush (wild country)
	ARBUSTOS	(many bushes)

7.35
Needles on conifers

Recommended   *acícula*

Not recommended   *aguja*

7.36

<u>North on maps</u>

Recommended   **N**

Not recommended   ***North / NORTE***

The single letter "N" represents both the English word NORTH and the Spanish word NORTE with clarity. There is no need to clutter up a map with extra verbiage that does not add to meaning and slows down a reader.

The correct abbreviations for the four cardinal points of the compass rose are almost all the same in both English and Spanish. Only West/ OESTE is different.

<u>Points of the Compass</u>

Be aware that older Spanish maps of the 16th–17th centuries used the symbols of the traditional names of winds in the Mediterranean Sea —**T, G, ✚, S, O, L, P, M** —in lieu of today's compass point abbreviations—**N**, NE, **E**, SE, **S**, SO, **O**, NO.

Compass rose		Rosa de los vientos		Símbolos Nombres tradicionales	
North	**N**	**NORTE**	**N**	*TRAMONTANA*	**T**
North-Northeast	NNE	NORNORDESTE	NNE		
Northeast	NE	NORESTE	NE	*GREGAL*	**G**
East-Northeast	ENE	ESTENORDESTE	ENE		
East	**E**	**ESTE**	**E**	*LEVANTE*	**✚**
East-Southeast	ESE	ESTESUDESTE	ESE		
Southeast	SE	SURESTE	SE	*SIROCCO, XALOC*	**S**
South-Southeast	SSE	SUDSUDESTE	SSE		
South	**S**	**SUR**	**S**	*OSTRO, MEDIODIA*	**O**
South-Southwest	SSW	SUDSUDOESTE	SSO		
Southwest	SW	SUROESTE	SO	*LEBECHE*	**L**
West-Southwest	WSW	OESTESUDOESTE	OSO		
West	**W**	**OESTE**	**O**	*PONIENTE*	**P**
West-Northwest	WNW	OESTENOROESTE	ONO		
Northwest	NW	NOROESTE	NO	*MISTRAL, MAESTRAL*	**M**
North-Northwest	NNW	NORNOROESTE	NNO		

7.37
Panther or puma

Recommended	**_PUMA_**
Alternates	LEÓN DE LA SIERRA
Not recommended	**_pantera_**

North America's most widespread big cat, **_Felis concolor_**, has many common names in English: cougar, catamount, panther, mountain lion, painter, and puma.

In Spanish, most widely known name for this species— **regardless of country**— is **PUMA**. This short word helps safety signs visually get to the main idea quickly. PUMA also saves text line length in waysides and publications.

In 2006 first-language-Spanish-speaking reviewers from many different countries felt that the word _PANTERA_ referred more to the Old World (African) **_Panthera leo_**.

Decades ago South Florida national parks chose to ignore the Spanish term PUMA. So today there are many existing materials, printed and on the Internet, calling the Florida panther ~ _LA PANTERA DE LA FLORIDA_.

For the sake of consistency, Everglades National Park chose to keep using _LA PANTERA DE LA FLORIDA_.

Big Cypress safety signs used the shorter term _PUMA_.

7.38
The Park v. _PARQUE NACIONAL_

CAVEAT   "**_El parque_**" ≠ A NPS-MANAGED SITE

Recommended	_el parque nacional_
Not recommended	**_el parque_**

Writers often assume that readers understand the phrase 'THE PARK' is an acceptable substitute for their National Park, National Monument, National Seashore, etc. But translating 'THE PARK' directly into Spanish will NOT guarantee that Spanish-only readers will understand the national significance of the site.

In Spanish-speaking countries the word _PARQUE_ by itself means a small downtown urban green space. The word _PARQUE_ by itself does not mean a large natural or historico-cultural patrimony of national or international significance.

Use _PARQUE NACIONAL_ to be clear and to impart more dignity and significance to your site.

7.39
Place Names – Don't Translate

Recommended	Red Hills Visitor Center (STET)	
Not recommended	*Centro de visitantes de Colinas Coloradas*	
Recommended	White Sands National Monument	
Not recommended	*Monumento nacional de Arenas Blancas*	
Recommended	Blue Ridge Parkway	
Not recommended	*Autopista de la Serranía Azul*	

Keep the names of all places on maps in their original English —or Spanish— form, so that a reader can look from the text to a map or road guide sign and make an instant connection as they move through the national park and make decisions about where to go and how to spend their time.

Translating place names injects only confusion into a Spanish-only visitor's experience. Especially on maps and orientation materials, keep all place names untranslated.

CAVEAT. Place names, like any proper names in Spanish, **should not be divided at the end of a line of text**.

7.40
Place Names that were originally Spanish:
STET

If a place or key feature in a national park has an attractive, unusual sounding Spanish-origin name, writers often use some space in the following English text to explain or define what that Spanish phrase means in English.

That provides you a great opportunity to save some line length in your Spanish text. It is completely unnecessary to explain what these original Spanish terms mean to native speakers of Spanish.

Some names that may sound appealing and exotic to English-only readers may be as mundane as "live oak tree" or "cow" to someone who understands Spanish.

Avoid confusing readers with tricky or nonsensical back translations from Spanish to English back to Spanish.

7.41
<u>Park Ranger</u>

Recommended	*guardaparque*
Alternate	*guía de parque*
Not recommended	**guardabosque**

The DRAE (*Diccionario de Real Academia Española*) does not yet officially list the word the NPS has long preferred for its rangers: *GUARDAPARQUE*.

Other Latin America national parks coined this word in contrast with GUARDABOSQUES, which is a forest ranger or often a **game warden**. Years ago, we adopted *GUARDAPARQUE* from these sister agencies.

CAVEAT. GUARDABOSQUES is often seen written in a plural form when it really means a singular noun. This has shown up in some draft Spanish translations of *GUARDAPARQUE.*

7.42
<u>Rattlesnake</u>
Crotalus spp.

Recommended	*VÍBORA DE CASCABEL*
Also acceptable	*VÍBORA CASCABEL*
	SERPIENTE DE CASCABEL
If scientific	*crótalo*
If space limited	*víbora*
If folkloric (RATTLER)	*chilladora*
If sidewinder	*crótalo cornudo*
Not recommended	**cascabel**

Many draft NPS texts start out with the long-form specific names seen in biology books or nature guides. But names equivalent to *Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake*, *Western Diamondback Rattlesnake*, or *Timber Rattlesnake* are not easily found or well known in the Spanish-speaking world. If you translate this kind of snake name word-for-word, it won't convey any extra value in meaning. Word-for-word translation of English names has the potential to baffle most readers.

The first question to ask is "what is the purpose of what we are writing?" If the most important idea is that the snake is poisonous and dangerous, **use the short word** *VÍBORA.*

If the purpose includes making a distinction between this particular rattlesnake and others, look for nature guides or species lists from Spanish-speaking countries to find the actual names for these rattlers that are known widely in Spanish. The agency CONABIO.gob, for example, lists 39 species of crotalids found south of the US-Mexico border.

If you can't find a good, short version common name in Spanish, use *la víbora Crotalus spp.*

7.43
Rifles

Recommended | *FUSIL*

Caution with: | *RIFLE* (considered an Anglicism)

Military history sites need this word most. If the weapon in question is a standard military long arm carried by a foot soldier, **FUSIL** is the best Spanish term.

CAVEAT! Some large cannon in the mid-19th century had rifled barrels, and were commonly called RIFLES, e.g. the Parrott Rifle. Park interpreters should tell translators which rifles are *small arms* (single man carried) and which refer to *artillery* (crew served).

7.44
Ring of Fire

Recommended | *el cinturón de fuego*

Not recommended | *El Anillo de Fuego*

Be wary of nicknames or phrases that have been used to popularize scientific ideas—like the volcanic RING OF FIRE around the Pacific Rim. These phrases may not be universal concepts. What English-speakers think of as a RING may look more like a BELT to another culture.

Confusion over what to call an idea, like this one, arises when English phrases are mechanically translated for new "bilingual" Internet web pages, without checking with a native speaker of Spanish to see if that new software-generated phrase is actually something people in the real Spanish-speaking world know and recognize.

An excellent resource for how to best translate geological terms into Spanish is this undergraduate-level textbook:

FUNDAMENTOS DE GEOLOGÍA FÍSICA, 1997
ISBN 968-18-0475-9.
L. Don Leet & Sheldon Judson,
EDITORIAL LIMUSA S.A. DE C.V. GRUPO NORIEGA EDITORES, MÉXICO, DF.
TRANSLATORS/PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGICAL REVIEWERS IN MEXICO:
ING. LUIS BENAVIDES GARCÍA & ING. GEÓLOGO EDUARDO J. GUZMÁN, UNAM.

7.45
Sawgrass

Recommended	*hierba serrucho*
Not recommended	*hierba serrada*
	cortadera, sibal

SAWGRASS (*Cladium jamaicense*) proved to be one of the biggest translation challenges of 2003 for Everglades NP.

SAWGRASS is used as a noun and also frequently as an evocative descriptor of the vast watery prairies. Many nature writers think that the word SAWGRASS delivers a distinctive flavor of South Florida.

After much debate, the park's bilingual staff concluded there was no common name for SAWGRASS in Spanish that was used by most of the Spanish-speaking naturalists working in South Florida. No one in 2003 could find *Cladium jamaicense* in a published Spanish dictionary or biology textbook. A similar sharp-sided sedge in Argentina is CORTADERA. A Google search in Spanish only revealed that the same species *Cladium jamaicense* is known in coastal Mexico and Guatemala as SIBAL. But the word SIBAL drew blank looks from all bilingual NPS reviewers.

The 2003 solution for what to call **SAWGRASS** was a made-up compound of two Spanish nouns. This choice followed the pattern seen in Audubon Society publications and other nature field guides when common names for birds have been made-up for Spanish where an English common name existed but a Spanish common name did not.

HIERBA SERRUCHO will not deliver the same specific-to-South-Florida meaning and poetic associations as the English word SAWGRASS. Editors of the translated Spanish materials need to make sure that final version does not lean too heavily on any newly coined word to carry the heart of the message to visitors.

7. 46
Scorpion

Recommended	*alacrán, alacranes*
If very large or in Spain	*escorpión, escorpiones*

Use *ALACRÁN* for safety messages when referring to the most typical small and medium-size scorpions of the warmer regions of the United States or northern Mexico.

 The term *ESCORPIÓN* is more common in Spain than in the New World. In Mexico, it is used mostly with only the largest of scorpions. *ESCORPIÓN* is the common product of software translations from English to Spanish in the USA.

7.47
Ship names

Writers employ the exotic names of long-ago ships to give a historic flavor. Strive to match this in correct nautical Spanish. As is true in English, names for ships in maritime Spanish are historic-era-sensitive.

FOR SAILING SHIPS   (listed in alphabetical order)

English		Spanish	Era
BARKENTINE	~	*bergantín-goleta*	*1800s*
BARQUE / BARK	~	*bricbarca*	*1800s*
BOAT	~	*barco, embarcación*	
BRIGANTINE	~	*bergantín*	*1700-1800s*
CARAVEL	~	*carabela*	*1450-1600s*
CARRACK	~	*carraca*	*1450-1600s*
CLIPPER SHIP	~	*clíper*	*1800s*
CORVETTE	~	*corbeta*	
CUTTER	~	*patrullera, cúter*	
FLUYT	~	*filibote*	*1600-1700s*
FRIGATE	~	*fragata*	
FULL-RIGGED SHIP	~	*velero con aparejo de cruz*	
GALIOT	~	*galeota*	*1450-1600s*
GALLEASS	~	*galeza*	*1450-1600s*
GALLEY	~	*galera*	*1450-1600s*
GALLEON	~	*galeón*	*1500-1600s*
GIG, ADMIRAL'S	~	*esquife, bote* (para oficiales)	
HERMAPHRODITE BRIG	~	*bergantín*	*1700-1800s*
JOLLY BOAT	~	*serení*	*1600-1900s*
LONG BOAT	~	*chalupa, lancha, canoa*	
LUGGER	~	*barcolongo*	*1600-1900s*
KETCH	~	*queche*	*1600-2000s*
MAN-O-WAR	~	*buque de guerra*	
PACKET BOAT	~	*paquebote*	*1600-1700s*
PINNACE	~	*pinaza*	*1600-1700s*
PILOT BOAT	~	*pailebot*	*1600-2000s*
PIRATE SHIP	~	*corsario*	*1500-2000s*
SCHOONER	~	*goleta*	*1600-1900s*
SLAVER	~	*barco negrero*	*1600-1900s*
SQUARE RIGGED	~	*con vela cuadrada*	
SHIP	~	*navío, buque, bajel*	
SHIP-OF-THE-LINE	~	*navío de línea*	*1600-1700s*
SLOOP	~	*balandra*	
TALL SHIP	~	*fragata*	*1900s–2000s*
YAWL	~	*yola*	

FOR MODERN SHIPS		(listed in alphabetical order)
AIRCRAFT CARRIER	~	*portaaviones*
BATTLESHIP	~	*acorazado*
CARGO SHIP	~	*buque de carga*
CRUISER	~	*crucero*
FLAGSHIP	~	*buque insignia, nave capitana*
GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER	~	*crucero lanzamisiles*
GUNBOAT	~	*cañonero*
HP, HORSEPOWER	~	*CV, caballos de vapor*
IRONCLAD (SHIP)	~	*barco blindado*
LIGHTER	~	*barcaza, gabarra*
MINESWEEPER	~	*dragaminas*
PADDLE WHEELER	~	*vapor de ruedas*
SIDE-WHEELER	~	*vapor de ruedas laterales*
STEAMER	~	*vapor, piróscafo, buque de vapor*
TORPEDO BOAT	~	*torpedero*
TRAMP STEAMER	~	*vapor volandero, carguero*

USEFUL GLOSSARIES OF NAUTICAL TERMS IN SPANISH:

http://candamo.eu/Naval/miscelan/marco.htm

http://www.libreriadenautica.com/diccionario_nautico.html

http://www.clubesnauticosdeespana.com/index.php?option=com_glossary&Itemid=126&lang=es

Diccionario Técnico–Marítimo: Inglés–Español y Español–Inglés.
1966. US Navy Headquarters, Southern Command, Canal Zone.
COMUSNAVSO-A1A.

7.48
Sounds, Lagoons, & Bays

Translators working for Gulf Islands National Seashore in 2009 struggled to find a good rendering for the **MISSISSIPPI SOUND**. Maps and geography books provided the solution.

Bodies of saltwater that are called SOUNDS or BAYS in English may be known in Spanish as LAGUNAS (lagoons). Both Texas and North Carolina have barrier islands with large tidal bodies of water behind them. In North Carolina, it's called Albemarle SOUND. In Texas, the same kind of body of water is called La LAGUNA MADRE.

7.49
Straws (for drinking)

Recommended	***popote***
If for Puerto Ricans	*sorbeto*
If for Cubans	*pitillo*
If for Central America	*pajilla*
If for Argentines	*bombilla*
Also acceptable	*pajita*
Not recommended	*popote ~~de soda~~*

Although English writers often modify STRAW with the preceding adjective SODA to make it distinctive from STRAW as the agricultural product, this extra word is not needed in Spanish translation. Any of the single words listed above are sufficient to give readers the right meaning.

Adding **DE SODA** to POPOTE is unnecessarily redundant, like saying "Triple AAA" or "for all intents and purposes" in English prose.

7.50
Swamps, Marshes, & Wetlands

Recommended	*HUMEDALES* for WETLANDS
	MARJALES for SALTWATER MARSHES
Caution:	*PANTANO, CIÉNAGA* are freshwater, and may be considered negative words by some readers.
	MARISMA is also saltwater marsh.

National parks with important wetlands have found out there are strong debates about what words in Spanish can be best used to put wetlands in a positive, not negative light. See the discussion below about WILDERNESS.

7.51
Trailhead

Many National Park Service writers employ this word assuming that it is universally understood.

So far, we have found no short, exact, one-word equivalent in Spanish.

Recommended   INICIO DEL RECORRIDO

INICIO DEL SENDERO

PUNTO DE PARTIDO

If any important aspect of the message is that there is parking for hikers or horseback riders available at the TRAILHEAD, use ESTACIONAMIENTO to clarify what visitors need most.

Example:

ESTACIONAMIENTO DE TRANSPORTADORES DE CABALLOS

7.52
Trains

Spanish has a cognate word *TREN* **—** for a **railroad** train.

But TRAINS in some National Park Service military history texts do not always refer to railroads. Examples are WAGON TRAINS or LOGISTICAL TRAINS or SUPPLY TRAINS. These words require extra attention to translate in a way that Spanish general readers who are not historians can understand.

7.53
The United States

Write out the entire name of our country.

Recommended   *Estados Unidos **de América***

If space limited   *EE.UU.*

EUA

Not recommended   *Estados Unidos*

There are several countries in the world that have or have had a name that includes "United States"— Belgium, Brazil, Central America, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, and Venezuela.

The formal name for the nation that lies south of our border is ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS. Mexico's alternate name is REPÚBLICA MEXICANA.

7.54
Vault toilets

Recommended	*letrina*
Acceptable, but not as clear	*servicio sanitario*
Not recommended	*baño*

The NPS uses the terms VAULT TOILET and PIT TOILET for backcountry sanitary facilities that do not flush.

Reviewers working on texts for White Sands in 2013 discovered that for many first-language-Spanish readers, the term BAÑO implies that this is a bathroom where water is provided, hands can be washed, and flushing will occur.

If that is not the case in your backcountry site, use **LETRINA**.

7.55
Wagons

Recommended	*carro*	
	carromato	for COVERED WAGON
	carreta	for 2-WHEEL CART
Not recommended	*vagón*	

VAGÓN looks like it should be the cognate for the English word WAGON. Be aware that VAGÓN refers to **railroad** cars—which the British in the 1800s also call wagons.

There are many specific names in Spanish for horse-drawn or oxen-drawn cargo vehicles, just as in English before the days of the internal combustion engine writers used wagon, cart, dray, tumbrel, truck, etc.

Find the right Spanish word for the historic period.

7.56
Walls

Walls of a fortified city or a fortress are called *MURALLAS* in Spanish. There is no exact English cognate for this term.

The standard word for a wall of a building – *PARED* – is not the right word to use for a fortress or castle.

7.57
Names of wars

Direct translations of the customary names known widely in the United States may not be the name that Spanish-only readers know for many wars. Examples where the name known to Spanish-speaking audiences differs from the best-known English war name are:

King William's War	1689–1697	Guerra de los Nueve Años
Queen Anne's War	1702–1713	Guerra de la Sucesión Española
War of Jenkin's Ear	1740–1748	Guerra de Sucesión Austriaca
French & Indian War	1754–1763	Guerra de los Siete Años
American Revolution	1776–1783	Guerra de Independencia de Estados Unidos
War of 1812	1812–1815	Guerra anglo-estadounidense de 1812
Mexican-American War	1846–1848	Guerra **del** 47 (in Mexico)
		Guerra de México contra Estados Unidos
Spanish-American War	1898	Guerra de 1898 (in Puerto Rico, Cuba)
		Guerra Hispanoamericana
		El desastre de 98, Guerra de Cuba (in Spain)
The Punitive Expedition	1916–1917	3ª Intervención estadounidense en México
The Mexican Expedition		(official US name)
World War I, Great War	1914–1918	Primera Guerra Mundial, Gran Guerra
WWI		PGM
World War II	1939–1945	Segunda Guerra Mundial
WWII		SGM

7.58
Whites, white settlers

CAVEAT

A direct translation of WHITES as BLANCOS, like the term INDIOS, may have negative connotations linking back to the colonial past and its *criollo* and *peninsular* elites. In interpretive texts written for the National Park Service, always look for other, less offensive ways to express this idea.

The best solution may be to edit or rewrite the passage. Sometimes using the term ANGLOSAJONES works.

For the Whitman Mission Spanish park brochure, we opted to use SETTLERS: POBLADORES / COLONOS instead.

7.59
Wilderness

Conservationists assume the concept of **WILDERNESS** is something that is univerally seen as positive and wonderful. This point of view has turned out to be a cultural, linguistic minefield in Spanish translations.

Unfortunately, the standard Spanish words normally used for a WILDERNESS — *DESIERTO, SELVA, TIERRA SALVAJE* —are not positive, but heavily negative.

Recommended: *tierras silvestres, zona silvestre*

Alternate: *tierras indomadas*

Up until the 1800s, even English-language writers saw WILDERNESS as something to fear, to conquer, and to obliterate— not something positive or wonderful.

When you search in a Spanish-language thesaurus for how to say WILDERNESS, you find many negative connotations.

ABANDONADO	*DESHABITADO*	*SOLITARIO*
DESPOBLADO	*VACIO*	*INHOSPITALARIO*
SOLEDADES	*INEXPLORADO*	*SOLEDUMBRE*

The whole idea that there is a legal classification of land use in the USA that we label WILDERNESS is puzzling to many Spanish readers.

Putting WILDERNESS AREA on a map in Spanish and expecting people to "get it" the way National Park Service employees understand that label (as a special-laws-apply area) won't work. Literal translation would give you something very similar to those very old maps that have "UNEXPLORED AREA" in the big blank spots in the middle of Africa and Australia.

In 2006 Sequoia–Kings Canyon's staff strongly felt that *INDOMADO* was the best rendering for WILDERNESS. The Spanish verb *DOMAR* means "to break a horse" and is fairly common in Latin America. Others in the Department of the Interior felt this word would draw blank stares from most Latin American readers.

Although Mexico established their first legal wilderness area and called it *tierra silvestre* in 2006, this term does not carry exactly the same meaning in Spanish as WILD has in English.

SILVESTRE also means SAVAGE, RUSTIC, UNCULTURED, UNREFINED, CRUDE, BARBARIC, and PEASANT.

7.60
Wildlife versus Plants and Animals

Recommended   *flora y fauna*   for WILDLIFE

Alternate   *vida silvestre*

Although it is acceptable and common to write "plants and animals" in English with no articles, this is usually translated into Spanish with the two articles: *LAS PLANTAS Y LOS ANIMALES.*

This choice produces a text line that increases from 18 to 25 spaces. If you use the standard Spanish phrase *FLORA Y FAUNA* you will save valuable space.

The terms *FLORA Y FAUNA* are not perceived to be as high vocabulary in Spanish, even though using their English cognates FLORA AND FAUNA seems high fallutin for general readers in today's English. You can find *FLORA Y FAUNA* widely used in many Latin American national parks.

7.61
Zone vs. Area

The debate about how to label wilderness "areas" in text and maps revealed that first-language-Spanish readers saw a distinction between *zona* and *área*.

ZONA was perceived to be a more managed, controlled place.

ÁREA was perceived to be a more general concept.

If the point of your text is that wilderness has to be protected and managed to survive in today's world, use *zona.*

If you are referring to a large area that is more loosely controlled, use *área.*

SECTION 8:   **WRITING & SYNTAX SUGGESTIONS**

8.01
Adjectives:
Variety needed

When an English noun functions as an adjective, or makes a compound noun, it usually makes texts longer in Spanish— and often makes them less interesting to read.

Examples: DESERT TREES   ***árboles del desierto***
           DESERT PLAINS   ***planicies del desierto***

Here 12 letter spaces in English became 20 letter spaces in Spanish (160%). Publications and outdoor exhibits have limited space, and trimming text down to fit is challenging.

Look for other adjective forms, such as ***DESÉRTICO***.

Editors and reviewers should ask themselves how many times a noun modifiers like DESERT or MOUNTAIN or RANGE need to appear in a text to get key thoughts conveyed. Save space and promote adjective variety.

8.02
Place-name-based adjectives in Spanish
Gentilicios

Give readers some variety by not repeating the formula (LAND FORM NOUN) DE (PLACE NAME) over and over. Most places have adjectives of locality, *gentilicios*, in Spanish.

English place name: SONORAN DESERT

Standard translation: *desierto de Sonora*

Gentilic alternate: *desierto sonorense*

English place name: PUERTO RICAN RAINFOREST

Standard translation: *bosque pluvial de Puerto Rico*

Gentilic alternate: *bosque pluvial boricua*

The adjective of locality is always **lowercase** in Spanish.

8.03
Multiple (stacked) modifiers

Interpretive writing in English abounds in noun series like "…DESERT PLAINS, FOOTHILLS, AND MOUNTAINS." Series like these produce very long and involved sentences in Spanish. Does DESERT modify just PLAINS or does it modify all three nouns? English syntax makes it possible to compress expressions that require more words in Spanish.

When trimming translated text to fit a space, the writer/ editor and translator should watch out for rhetorical expressions and nouns in series that are mostly included for rhythm in English. Phrases like MOUNTAINS, DESERTS, AND PLAINS or BREAD AND BUTTER may read well in the original English, but they may not necessarily be the heart of the story to tell.

Some years ago, for the Saguaro brochure, keeping the single word SWEET in front of NECTAR cost a full additional line of text space in the new Spanish text. Since nectar is by its nature sweet, SWEET was trimmed out to save space.

8.04
Wordplay-based Interpretation

In some new museum labels written for Gulf Islands in 2009, the whole effectiveness of the thought hinged on being able to understand a play on words of the English name for a seashell or animal.

But the Spanish names for some of these creatures were nothing like the English names. In some cases, there was no Spanish common name. And there was not extra space available to explain at length in Spanish what the English name meant.

The best solution for this situation is to find an interesting angle or story to tell in Spanish about the creature that does not depend on wordplay with its name(s).

Early in museum projects, writers should be cautioned to not write labels this way.

8.05
Use verbs instead of nouns

English relies heavily on nouns for key meanings. In contrast, texts originally written in Spanish often load more meaning and functions on the verbs.

A very literal translation often retains the English emphasis on the noun.

This is especially true in passive or transitive voice English sentences.

Invest time and thought to find Spanish verbs for text that is more natural to read and more effective in conveying key thoughts.

8.06
Vocabulary — Is it too high?

Latin or Greek-based words that sound too scientific or too professorial in English can be normal vocabulary in a Latin-based language like Spanish.

Because Spanish and English share so many close cognates, reviewers who are bilingual may think some Spanish texts look too complex for a general audience. High-level-vocabulary words are reader roadblocks for many general readers in English.

A real-life example came up during a review for Spanish materials prepared for a national park where reviewers asked that DEL ESTE and DEL OESTE replace ORIENTAL and OCCIDENTAL. Occidental sounds professorial in English, but not in Spanish.

Know your target audience, both in Spanish and in English, and adjust the vocabulary level of translations to serve them.

8.07
Avoid back-translations

Finding great quotes from people of the past can really make an exhibit or wayside panel better. In some cases, park interpreters know of a historical-era quote, originally written in Spanish, that has survived in standard textbooks, park study resources, or learned papers, but only in a modern English translation.

It is a mistake to re-translate a thought that was originally expressed in Spanish many years ago. Going from Spanish into English and then back to Spanish usually ends up with thoughts garbled and not close to their true form.

Take the extra effort to **hunt down what was the exact wording** of the original quote **in Spanish**.

Then make sure that the English version you started the exhibit planning with is an accurate rendering of the thoughts. It doesn't matter that the grammar or spelling of a historic quote in Spanish may now seem quaint or archaic — that can add flavor to the interpretive impact.

For a San Antonio Missions project in 1999, it turned out that the original Spanish texts from an 18th-century traveler were far more interesting and revealing that how certain quotes had been customarily rendered for Texas textbooks in English.

SECTION 9:   **WORD DIVISION CAVEATS**

NPS publications, exhibits, and waysides follow the international rules of word division for Spanish seen in the Chicago Manual of Style Sections 9.68 through 9.79.

9.01
Spanish double letters
Dígrafos   If you have to divide a Spanish word into syllables for the end of a text line, don't rely on your computer to automatically do it right.

Keep the **digraphs** (two-letter unique sound combinations) RR, CH, LL, QU, and GU together in the same syllable.

This is parallel to English digraphs like CH, GH, RH, WH, WR, and TH which stay together. These two-letter combos have to remain together for correct syllable separation.

Examples: *ci-ga-**rro***
                 *mo-**ch**i-la*
                 *ca-ba-**lle**-ro*
                 *hi-**gu**e-ra*
                 *ar-**qu**i-tec-tu-ra*

Before widespread computerization, databases, and the rise of the Internet, the formal Spanish rules of spelling and alphabetization in dictionaries and encyclopedias considered the three digraphs CH, LL, and RR to each be a single letter. This was changed by worldwide reforms in 1994, but you may still find the former 30-letter-alphabetic order system in indexes in older Spanish books.

9.02
Safeguard key words
during text adjustments
                 Complex words, unusual words, and words that are the critical to the meaning of the sentence should not be divided at the end of the line of text, if at all possible.

9.03
Proper names –
don't divide at line ends
                 Names of people in Spanish are not supposed to be divided by a line break, if there is any way to possibly avoid it.

                 This differs from English editing practices.

*For further information, or to add items
to this ongoing list of Spanish translation problems and solutions, contact:*

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NATIONAL PARK UNITS WHERE THESE GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN USED

Spanish translations of park brochures and other publications:

Biscayne NP, Florida	National Capital Region, DC-MD-VA
Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida	Oklahoma City NM, Oklahoma
Castillo de San Marcos NM, Florida	Pinnacles NM, California
Chamizal NMem, Texas	Saguaro NP, Arizona
Chattahoochee River NRA, Georgia	San Juan NHS, Puerto Rico
Dry Tortugas NP, Florida	White Sands NM, New Mexico
Everglades NP, Florida	Whitman Mission NHS, Washington

Spanish translations of film scripts, subtitles, and audio description scripts:

Cabrillo NM, California	Palo Alto National Battlefield NHP, Texas
Carlsbad Caverns NP, New Mexico	San Antonio Missions NHP, Texas
Castillo de San Marcos NM, Florida	San Juan NHS, Puerto Rico
Channel Islands NP, California	White Sands NM, New Mexico
Mount Rushmore NMem, South Dakota	Whitman Mission NHS, Washington

Spanish translations of wayside exhibits, safety signs, and visitor center exhibits:

Big Bend NP, Texas	Indiana Dunes NL, Indiana
Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida	Joshua Tree NP, California
Biscayne NP, Florida	Juan Bautista de Anza Trail, California
Cabrillo NM, California	Organ Pipe NM, Arizona
Carlsbad Caverns NP, New Mexico	Padre Island NS, Texas
Castillo de San Marcos NM, Florida	Palo Alto National Battlefield NHP, Texas
Delaware Water Gap, New Jersey	Saguaro NP, Arizona
Dry Tortugas NP, Florida	Salinas Pueblo Missions NM, New Mexico
Everglades NP, Florida	San Antonio Missions NHP, Texas
Fort Washington Park, Maryland	San Juan NHS, Puerto Rico
Grand Canyon NP, Arizona	Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP, California
Guadalupe Mountains NP, Texas	Timpanogos Cave NM, Utah
Gulf Islands NS, Florida/Mississippi	White Sands NM, New Mexico